



February 12, 2021

Dear St. Mary's Families,

Happy Valentine's Weekend! It's been quite a weather week in southwest Missouri and it seems Mother Nature may be getting ready to throw us another winter weather curveball in a few days. Although there is no substitution for the classroom experience, I am thankful St. Mary's has the virtual option of Google Classroom when weather or other circumstances prohibit in-class learning. **If you have an elementary student, please realize that the taped instruction and downloaded assignments in your child's Google Classroom are required and your child needs to complete the assignments for a grade.** Specials classes (Spanish, PE, Music, Technology, Art, etc.) may post activities to serve as enrichment during virtual learning, but classroom teachers are posting **REQUIRED** work that needs to be completed and submitted by your child. Early Childhood teachers (Early Learners, Preschool, and Pre-K) have gone to great care to create instruction and activities for each of their classes to view and complete as well, but these assignments are not graded like elementary work. If you have not visited your child's Google Classroom please do so. If you need your child's password or any other helpful hints, please contact your child's classroom teacher. If we are out of school next week due to weather and/or road conditions, your child's teacher will be loading classwork each morning for you to access by 10:00 a.m. each day. Please contact me with any questions you may have about virtual learning days.

Tomorrow is going to be an exciting morning at St. Mary's during our Preschool (formerly Early Childhood) and Kindergarten Open House from 9:00-11:00 a.m.! If you or someone you know may be interested in attending, please join us to learn more about our Preschool programs which include Early Learners for 2 year olds, Advanced Learners (formerly preschool) for 3 year olds, and Pre-K for 4 year olds, in addition to our Kindergarten program. This morning is not only designed for parents to learn more about our school, but also for our youngest learners to have fun, meet new friends, and get acquainted with our school. Parents will have a chance to tour the school, visit with classroom teachers, and complete a Valentine themed craftivity with their child to take home. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our school and is not able to attend the Open House tomorrow morning, please know that I am happy to visit and tour any family at a time which is convenient for them. It will be a LOVELY morning you won't want to miss!

When we return to in-person learning at school, all St. Mary's classes will celebrate Valentine's Day with their classmates and teacher. In addition, we will conclude our Penny War and have our February Charity Dress Day, both which will benefit Children's Haven's playground project. With one day left of the Penny War, St. Mary's has already raised over \$1,900 for Children's Haven, thank you for your thoughtful and generous donations. We will know soon which Early Learners – Kindergarten class will enjoy a popcorn and movie party and which 1st – 5th Grade class will enjoy a Free Dress Week as the winning class in each category. If we are in school on Monday, February 15th, we will celebrate Valentine's Day, have Charity Dress Day, AND finish our Penny War. If we miss school early next week due to weather and/or road conditions, we will have all 3 events the first day we return to campus.

When we return to school next week, please ensure that your child is dressed warmly due to the frigid air temperature and wind chill forecasted each day. During the winter months, each child arriving to school should have a cozy coat on, a hoodie is not adequate protection. In addition, gloves and a hat will help to keep your child warm and cozy while they are walking into the school in the morning, playing outside at recess during the school day, and leaving school in the car line each afternoon. If your family needs assistance providing outerwear for your child, please email and let me know. I will do my best to ensure your child has these important clothing items.

God bless and take care,
Joanne Lown
jlown@jacss.org

Important Dates to Remember:

Monday, February 15 th DAY	SCHOOL IN SESSION – SNOW MAKE-UP
Tuesday, February 16 th to students	Home and School serves Mardi Gras cake
Wednesday, February 17 th	Ash Wednesday
Thursday, February 18 th	Free Dress Day
February 28 th – March 2 nd	St. Mary's Self-Study
Tuesday, March 2 nd due to Self-Study Meeting for faculty and staff members	Noon Dismissal for all St. Mary's students After School Care will be available and 3:00 p.m. bus service will be running
Monday, March 1 st – Friday, March 5 th	Read Across America Week!
Thursday, March 18 th	Noon Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30 – 6:00 p.m.
March 19 th – March 28 th	Spring Break!
Monday, March 29 th	Classes Resume